weapons recovered are handed over alongwith the FIR to the Police. Details with regard to further disposal of these weapons by the State Police are being ascertained from the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pilotless Aircraft supplied to Air Force, Navy and Army

333. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of indigenous pilotless aircraft supplied to the Indian Air Force, the Navy and the Army, separately;

(b) the names of the manufacturing units; and

(c) the number of such aircraft manufactured by each unit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Lakshya Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) for Aerial Target Practice is in Limited Series Production (LSP) based on indigenous development. Orders have been placed for 5 systems each by the Army, Navy and Air Force. Orders for the Air Force and the Navy are under completion; the Army order is likely to be completed by April 2001.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for Limited Series Production vests with the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO which works closely with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore which is the identified agency for serial production. Several firms in the private and public sector supply Lakshya sub-systems.

Shortage of Army Officers

† 334. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of army officers is being felt in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to cover-up this shortage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.